

Truman Tells Gompers Ceremony Congress Failed to Curb Inflation

Lay Plans To Win AEC Plants

Washington.—Heads of 22 AFL unions were summoned here Nov. 2 by the groundwork for a strong continuous organizing campaign in all atomic energy plants.

The call was issued by President James A. Brownlow of the AFL Metal Trades Department in conformance with unanimous instructions of the 42d annual convention of his department and with the unanimous support of the AFL 70th convention.

Unions requested to be represented included the Asbestos Workers, Fire Fighters, Operating Engineers, Electrical Workers, Chemical Workers, Boilermakers, Machinists, Structural Ironworkers, Painters, Plumbers, Teamsters, Carpenters, Sheet Metal Workers, Hod Carriers and Laborers, Blacksmiths, Building Service Employees, Firemen and Oilers, Molders and Foundry Workers, Metal Polishers, Pattern Makers, Technical Engineers, Stove Menders.

The decision to undertake an intensive organizing campaign in atomic energy plants grew out of President Brownlow's report to the Metal Trades convention that the atomic energy industry is expanding so rapidly that it will soon stand first in the United States.

He said AFL unions hold bargaining rights for 30,000 employees in 14 plants, a better than 3 to 1 lead over the CIO and independent unions. He listed 14 other plants in process of building in South Carolina, Tennessee, California, Ohio, Idaho, Colorado and elsewhere.

The Metal Trades convention instructed Mr. Brownlow to call a meeting of international unions which have members or are likely to have members in atomic plants to work out an expanding and developing organizing campaign.

The AFL convention, following the Metal Trades, unanimously recognized the importance of a strong, continuous organizing campaign in all atomic energy plants and resolved that "the full attention of the AFL be directed toward the organization of employees in atomic energy plants."

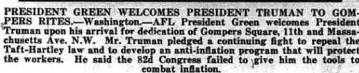
The atomic energy drive is one of a series of vitalizing organizing campaigns authorized by the AFL convention.

GREEN RECALLS PARIS TREATY

Washington.—AFL President William Green recalled that he accompanied Samuel Gompers to Paris in 1919, as advisers to President Wilson, in writing the World War I peace treaty which brought into existence the International Labor Organization.

Mr. Green said in his speech dedicating Gompers Square that Mr. Gompers wrote into the charter of the ILO that the labor of a human being is not a commodity.

Mr. Green departed from text to recall briefly the dignified life of William Gompers, which won establishment of ILO—the only international organization under the League of Nations to become a part of the United Nations and to continue functioning.



President Truman and William Green at the dedication ceremony.

PRESIDENT GREEN WELCOMES PRESIDENT TRUMAN TO GOMPERS RITES.—Washington.—AFL President Green welcomed President Truman upon his arrival for dedication of Gompers Square, 11th and Massachusetts Ave. N.W. Mr. Truman pledged a continuing fight to repeal the Taft-Hartley law and to develop an anti-inflation program that will protect the workers. He said the 82d Congress failed to give him the tools to combat inflation.

Gompers Gave Us A Torch: We Must Keep It Burning

By WILLIAM GREEN
President American Federation of Labor

(Text of his tribute to the founder of the American Federation of Labor at dedication Oct. 27, 1951, in Washington, D. C. of the square named in honor of Samuel Gompers, his predecessor as leader and head of the AFL for 42 years.)

It is appropriate and fitting that this strategic spot in our nation's capital should bear the name of the founder of the American Federation of Labor.

Samuel Gompers was by nature American. His passion for liberty was the guiding purpose in his personal life and in his leadership which made human freedom the overriding purpose of our American trade union movement. He came to this country seeking opportunity and his last words expressed his devotion to its institutions: "God bless our American institutions. May they grow better day by day."

Through our free American institutions he learned the practice of freedom. He learned to apply the fundamental principles of human liberty. He squared all his policies of life and work by his union card, but not before he had squared his union principles with the principles of free institutions. His union card was to him a symbol of liberty.

He taught workers to pool their strength and elect officers to advance their interests. After they found out how to organize at the local level they applied the principles to organization at the national industry level. Then as the pioneer organizers realized they needed support from other national trade unions, they led the way to a federation so as to unify union policies and facilitate national action.

At Samuel Gompers' suggestion the constitution of the new federation was modeled after the Constitution of the United States.

The federation was not given power to compel compliance with its decisions.

It relied for discipline upon education of members which comes through experience in union work and which grounds union members in practices and purposes of trade unions.

A spirit of fellowship develops among those who work together in shops and share struggles for progress. The federation was built up through personal sacrifice and through courageous insistence on rights.

What Gompers called voluntarism is the spiritual will to unity in the service of the organization. Voluntarism gave the American Federation of Labor its power and its effectiveness.

It rests on the individual member's understanding and belief in the trade union as a responsible way of life. Guided by this principle there evolved an American trade union movement bold in its purpose, insistent on demands, and effective in tangible progress.

Samuel Gompers taught wage earners that as American citizens they shared opportunities and rights available to all but that initiative to benefit by these rights lay with them.

To rights he added responsibilities and said "a union man carrying a card is not a good citizen unless he upholds the institutions of our great country and a poor citizen of our country if he upholds its institutions and forgets the obligation of his trade association."

Samuel Gompers strove to keep America's wage earners free—from dictation whether from employers or from government.

These fundamental purposes made him the leading opponent of Karl Marx who urged workers to seize and operate the government to solve their work problems. Marx taught the erroneous doctrine that economic methods and communist determine the social, political and intellectual life of men. Gompers made war on such doctrine and relentlessly attacked the disciples of Marx—both socialists and communists, for their philosophy took no account of the soul of man.

Gompers believed that trade unions had international duties. He took the federation into the international organization of workers and aided the workers of the Western Hemisphere in organizing free trade unions. He wrote into the charter of the International Labor Organization "The labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce."

So sound was his leadership and so intense his crusading zeal in orienting the American Federation of Labor that our country has become the most powerful association of free men in the world.

Samuel Gompers taught his generation to live in the dignity of freedom as the nature of man requires. He banded us as a flaming torch. It is for us to keep this torch burning as a light for future generations.

'Special Interests' Gang Up On Rest of Us, He Says

Washington.—President Truman called for a fight in the spirit of Samuel Gompers to win a strong anti-inflation program for the entire country.

Mr. Truman charged that the 82d Congress had failed to give his Administration the tools needed to curb inflation.

He spoke at flag-bedecked and impressive ceremonies, to several thousand people including a handful of Gompers' associates, in dedicating the U. S. triangular plot at 10th and Massachusetts Ave. N.W., as Gompers Square.

Mr. Truman was welcomed by AFL President William Green, who paid tribute to his predecessor and founder of the AFL for his vision and principles.

Other tributes to Mr. Gompers were offered by Secretary of Interior Oscar Chapman, Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin, President Clement P. Farrell of the Washington Central Labor Union, Rev. George C. Higgins, and Rabbi Louis Barish, Musicians Union.

161, Paul Schwarz, president, played a concert and Roy Roberts sang.

In the audience of high government and AFL officials were John P. Fry, president emeritus of the Metal Trades Department; Miss Florence C. Thorne, director AFL research department; Mrs. Lucy Robins Lang, author of "Tomorrow Is Beautiful," all associates of the late Mr. Gompers; Mrs. Florence Gompers Mackay, granddaughter of Mr. Gompers.

The rites were held on a platform facing the bronze monument to Mr. Gompers dedicated in 1933 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Naming of Gompers Square was proposed by John Herling, director of the Herling's Labor Letter, and authorized by the U. S. Parks and Planning Commission in Secretary Chapman's department. The program was arranged by the Washington Central Labor Union.

Mr. Truman noted Mr. Gompers' fight as AFL president from 1881 to 1924, against labor injunctions, for fairness and justice in labor-management relations and laws, for a stable economy, and for international cooperation among free nations and free working men.

"In this emergency," Mr. Truman said, "you would think that all citizens would want good, strong price controls to protect themselves and the whole economy."

"It is this not proved to be the case. Scores of special interests have gangued up together for the purpose of securing special short-run advantages for themselves at the expense of all the rest of us."

"This administration will do its best, with the tools the Congress has given us, to curb inflation. But the tools are not good enough to do the job as it should be done."

"There is part of the fight for human justice which I hope working people—and all other patriotic Americans—will carry on with increasing vigor in the months to come. We can win this fight."

"We must not lose heart. Think of the difficulties that confronted Samuel Gompers 60 years ago. We have far less reason to be discouraged today."

Mr. Truman criticized the "plot to devise legal machinery to cut the strength of organized labor into little pieces, and to enmesh each piece in a web of legal restrictions and red tape."

"The entire effort is harmful not just to labor, but to the welfare of the country," Mr. Truman said. "It is a backward step, really a counter-revolution."

"We have been fighting against it, and we must continue to fight against it."

"Our objective is to have what Samuel Gompers wanted: fairness and justice in the labor-management relations. And I believe we can win. We long run, in spite of all these efforts to turn back the clock of progress."

Asks Inquiry of Lobby Opposed to Wetback Law

Washington.—Rep. Eugene J. McCarthy of Minnesota asked the Justice Department to investigate the South Texas Association which has announced intentions to block enforcement of immigration laws against "wetback" Mexican laborers entering this country illegally.

Mr. McCarthy submitted to Attorney General J. Howard McGrath excerpts from newspapers which reported the raising of funds to oppose any strengthening of the Mexican Farm Labor Import Act and the Immigration Service.

"The South Texas Association was quoted as countering efforts of the Federal Government in restricting use of Mexican labor," the Corpus Christi, Tex. Caller Times said. "Presumably this is to be done by lobbying in Washington."

It is reported that farm leaders at the first meeting started a war chest of \$10,000 to carry on the campaign to liberalize the S.-Mexican labor agreement. Also reportedly a purpose of the organization is to prevent

the Immigration Service from obtaining supplemental funds to enlarge its immigration law enforcement efforts."

The AFL National Farm Labor Union and State Federations of Labor in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California are fighting for strict enforcement of the Mexican labor law passed by the 82d Congress which limits the exploitation of Mexican nationals and undermines the wage and working conditions of American workers.

Mr. McCarthy charged that the announced plan of the South Texas Association to raise a multi-thousand-dollar chest "is to prevent the enforcement of the laws of the country."

Anti-Labor Squeeze Group Discussed By Citrus Agency

OCTOBER 4, 1951 CORPUS CHRISTI CALLER - TIMES

By HOTT HAGER
Caller-Times Staff Writer

WESLACO.—The Texas Citrus Commission Wednesday, in a portion of its annual meeting from which the press was excluded, discussed possibilities of joining the South Texas Association and contributing to its treasury.

Jim Griffin, Mission, introduced the proposal at the behest of Chairman Horace Etchison. In his introductory remarks, Mr. Griffin told the citrus growers that the

Mr. Hill (Lion C. Hill, president of CRL, who called the meeting of Rio Grande Valley farm leaders Monday to organize the fight against the anti-labor tactics of the S.-Mexican labor agreement, was not present.

Mr. Griffin could elaborate on his views, Chairman Etchison observed.

open meeting and the press is present.

At Griffin's request two new representatives joined the Texas Citrus Commission meeting rather than agree to an "off the record" arrangement.

After the meeting Chairman Etchison said the commission had instructed its attorney to study the legal aspects of the state agency's financial participation in the new South Texas Association.

The South Texas Association was organized to counteract efforts of the federal government in restricting use of Mexican labor.

It is reported, however, farm leaders at the first meeting started a war chest of \$10,000 to carry on the campaign to liberalize the United States - Mexican labor agreement.

Also reportedly a purpose of the organization is to prevent the Immigration Service from obtaining supplemental funds to enlarge its immigration law enforcement efforts. The Border Patrol has asked for some \$30 additional patrolmen, more money for the airlift to Mexico and additional investigators to carry out the drive against wetback labor in the United States.

PLOT AGAINST U. S.—Weslaco, Tex.—This photo-story of a news report in the Corpus Christi Caller-Times is part of the basis of which Rep. Eugene McCarthy of Minnesota asked Attorney General J. Howard McGrath to investigate the South Texas Association organized to fight this country's efforts to halt the disgraceful "wetback" menace. The last paragraph of the story said, "purpose of the organization is to prevent the Immigration Service from obtaining supplemental funds to enlarge its immigration law enforcement efforts."

find their social functions hampered by the necessity to stay at home with their children—instead of turning them over to a 'wetback' nurse."

"You might say that people in the Valley cities would find themselves living about like everyone else. But the Valley citizens will never give up the 'wetback' voluntarily. But law making it a felony to hire a 'wetback' probably would bring the use of illegal labor to an abrupt halt."

GREEN TO SPEAK

Cincinnati, O.—AFL President William Green has the first of a series of reports for the 9th convention of the AFL United Auto Workers opening Nov. 5.

The citrus valley will be back in the citrus business again, perhaps strongly, by about 5 to 7 years.

"The other is the increased deportation of wetbacks, or illegal Mexican laborers."

The citrus valley will be back in the citrus business again, perhaps strongly, by about 5 to 7 years.

"The magic soil of the Valley really does create a higher cost of citrus production."

"But if the 'wetbacks' go, the Valley's cheap labor—backbone of its economy—will be gone."

The loss of the wetback would do more than create a higher cost of citrus production.

It would mean that many persons living in the Valley would be unable to afford servants. They would end up moving their own lawns and washing their own dishes. Parents would

NAM PRAISES 82d CONGRESS

New York.—While the AFL and other liberal groups found the first session of the 82d Congress disappointing, the National Association of Manufacturers New York City Congress, "labored long and constructively."

The NAM cited these examples: "Little consideration was given to further incursions into socialism and such projects as the Brannan farm plan and compulsory health insurance never even got off the ground."

"The obvious fairness of the Taft-Hartley Act to both labor and management made demands for its total repeal no more than distant cries of rage."

OPS Adds Tax Hike To Many Prices Nov. 1

Washington.—The Office of Price Stabilization announced that manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers will be allowed to reflect recent changes in manufacturers' excise taxes effective Nov. 1.

That's part of the new "soak-the-poor" tax law and the "built-in-inflation" Defense Production Act passed by the NAM-ridden 82d Congress.

Congress boosted personal income tax levies effective Nov. 1, the biggest boosts for the lowest paid. That is bite No. 1 out of the wage-earners' pay check.

Then Congress boosted the taxes on such cost-of-living items as cigarettes, gasoline, beer and a long list of household appliances. That's bite No. 2.

Previously Congress had passed the loose Defense Production Act, including the Republican Copestake and Dixiecrat Herlong amendments directing the Office of Price Stabilization to include in ceiling prices all costs of production and distribution. On top of that comes OPS' own little gimmick of granting the same percentage markups of profit.

OPS had no alternative but to add the excise taxes to prices. The cost of living index will go up as a result. The standard of living will go down even more.

The AFL had asked Congress not to increase the excise (sales) taxes because they would force up the cost of living and had asked repeal of the Copestake-Herlong amendments. OPS could force manufacturers and retailers to absorb some of their costs instead of passing every penny along to the consumer.

OPS said it is drafting new amendments to existing regulations to include the excise taxes in prices after Nov. 1.

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Wetbacks Head For Midwest

Washington.—The Washington Post reported that Mexican "wetback" laborers—who enter the country illegally by wading or swimming the Rio Grande river—are heading in a steady stream for Chicago and other midwestern areas.

The Post said that reports made to a recent closed session of field agents of the Immigration and Naturalization Service showed that the higher pay than on the big factory farms of the Southwest are attracting the "wetbacks" to industrial centers.

In a recent 4-day check, 406 Mexicans illegally in this country were deported from Chicago industrial plants. More than 100 were picked up in Detroit.

(The AFL National Farm Labor Union and State Federations of Labor as far north and west as Montana have criticized this U. S. Government failure—by Congress and executive branch alike—to protect American wage and working conditions and prevent the exploitation of helpless Mexican nationals.)

Last year immigration officers apprehended 579,000 of the illegal visitors, double the number ousted in 1949. 50 times the number deported 10 years ago.

State Federations of Labor as far north and west as Montana have criticized this U. S. Government failure—by Congress and executive branch alike—to protect American wage and working conditions and prevent the exploitation of helpless Mexican nationals.

Criminal Penalty Might End 'Wetback' Hiring

Houston, Tex.—A law making it a felony to hire a "wetback" probably will bring the end of the drive against an abrupt halt in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

That observation is contained in the last of a series of dispatches from John M. Moore, staff correspondent for the Houston Post, filed from Weslaco, Tex.

"Wetbacks" are Mexican laborers who swim or wade the Rio Grande river to enter the United States illegally to work on the big factory farms of the Southwest and wherever else they can find jobs without detection and deportation. More than 579,000 "wetbacks" entered this country last year, depressing wage, working and living standards.

The U. S. Senate voted into the Mexican Farm Labor Importation Act a provision making it a felony, punishable by a fine of \$2,000, for hiring "wetbacks." The House refused to insert such a provision. The Senate Dixiecrat-GOP conferees, who forced last year's provisions of the soak-the-poor tax law on the House, said that at the first whisper by the House that it opposed the \$2,000 penalty provision.

Mr. Moore reported in part from Weslaco:

"This Lower Rio Grande Valley may never be the same again. There are two reasons for this

It's the Same Old Story: Living Costs Up Again To New High Record

Washington.—Living costs for average income wage earners in big cities reached a new all-time high in September.

The consumers' price index of goods and services purchased by working families hit 186.6, up 1.1 points from August. The rise is the equivalent of 0.6 percent.

The rise since the Korean war began is 9.6 percent and since September 1950, 4.9 percent.

Congress went home without voting any safeguards to keep the cost of living from rising higher during the almost 3 months it will be in recess. It refused to repeal the Cope-

stake and Herlong amendments which make it mandatory for the Office of Price Stabilization to pass along all higher costs—including new sales taxes—to the consumers.

In the month between Aug. 15 and Sept. 15, clothing prices rose 2.7 percent, recreation 2.6 percent, higher than before Korea; house furnishings, 0.1 percent; food and electricity, 0.1 percent. The cost of living rose 0.6 percent, 0.4 percent; rent, 1.3 percent.

The cost of living was higher in Boston, 1.2 percent, and lowest in Houston, Mass., 17.8.

UNITED SIGNS

Chicago.—United Air Lines signed a new wage agreement with the AFL Air Line Pilots Association granting a wage increase of 16 percent after more than 2 years negotiations.

WALL STREETERS HAIL TAX BILL

New York.—The U. S. Senate—including that group elected in 1946 which voted to repeal the anti-lay law—handed big corporations \$600 million in "hardship relief" in the new tax act.

The Senate voted the amendments to relieve "hardship" cases under corporation excess tax provisions and then forced House conferees to accept them.

The Wall Street Journal and New York Journal of Commerce reported the extent of the "relief" granted business under the act.

WELCOME MINNESOTA WOMAN AMBASSADOR TO DENMARK.—Washington.—Mrs. Allen W. Barkley (left) and Mrs. Harry S. Truman (center) were among those to greet at reception Mrs. Eugene Anderson (right), Winona, Minn., who is on a vacation trip to her home from a period of distinguished service at Copenhagen.

Truman Sees Samuel Gompers' Goals as America's

Pledges to Carry on Fight for Human Justice and International Collaboration Among Free Nations and Workers

Washington.—President Truman said Samuel Gompers' goal of peace and justice for all the people of the world is America's goal.

"It is the goal of all progressive, forward-looking Americans," Mr. Truman said in his speech dedicating Gompers Square, 11th and Massachusetts Ave., N.W., to the memory of the founder and first president of the American Federation of Labor.

On specific issues, Mr. Truman pledged to work for a fair labor-management relations act to replace the Taft-Hartley law; to continue his efforts to prevent ruinous inflation; and to maintain a foreign policy of international collaboration with free nations and free working men.

Following is the text of President Truman's address dedicating Gompers Square:

I am happy to take part in the dedication of this square to the memory of Samuel Gompers.

Many of the squares and streets in this city are named after famous men. But very few of them add as much for their fellow man as Samuel Gompers did.

In his long life of effort for the working people of this country, he was bitterly abused and vilified by the forces of special privilege. But he found out, in the end, that this country will always honor a man who dedicates his life to helping others.

Samuel Gompers was a working man himself, and he fought to better the condition of the worker. But he never regarded organized labor as a pressure group concerned only with its own private and selfish gains. On the contrary, he thought of the cause of organized labor as the cause of human justice. He strove to correct the inequities of our industrial system because that was the right thing to do—the right thing that not only for labor but for all parts of our community.

In his autobiography, he summed up his beliefs in these words:

"... I have been jealous that the character of crusade for human justice. I know men and I know them and I know that the effort to secure justice for the underprivileged must be a fight."

That is a pretty good philosophy for a trade union movement to have. And it is a good philosophy for a political movement, too. I have always believed that the American people would prefer the political party that proved it was crusading for human justice. I have believed that that proposition is in my own experience.

Samuel Gompers was right when he said that the effort to secure justice for the working man means a fight. It does. It means a long, unending fight. I have seen the truth of that in my own experience, too.

It is an unending fight because the forces of reaction never give up. They have money and they have power, and they never really believe that the people ought to govern themselves. They are always trying to turn the control of the country over to a privileged few.

We have come a long way in our fight for human justice since the days Samuel Gompers, but the gains we have made are always under attack. The forces of reaction are always trying to undo the progress we have made.

One of the greatest struggles Samuel Gompers had was to prevent courts and legal institutions from being perverted into agencies of oppression against workingmen. That he started his great work in this area was considered to be illegal conspiracies in the words of the Courts were constantly issuing injunctions against unions for the benefit of employers. The labor injunction was used indiscriminately to keep unions in the prison of low wages and poor working conditions.

Samuel Gompers fought a kind of fight with all the energies of his great soul and mind.

He fought the labor injunction because it was used to undermine and destroy free trade unionism.

Above all, he fought the labor injunction because it was used to violate the constitutional rights to free speech and freedom of assembly.

The fight he led resulted in great victories—the Clayton Act, the Norris-LaGuardia Act, and the Wagner Act. These laws recognized the constitutional rights of labor and made the basis of our national labor policy.

In recent years, there have been at-

HST LEAVES TEXT TO LAUD GREEN

Washington.—President Truman departed from his prepared speech dedicating Gompers Square to praise AFL President William Green.

Mr. Truman said that in fighting for human justice and working with free trade unions of other nations, "the labor movement has been following the principles established by Samuel Gompers."

Then he departed from text to say:

"All of these principles have been carried forward by great labor leaders such as my friend here, William Green."

tempts to bring back the old ideas that Gompers fought against. There has been a campaign to reverse the labor relations laws so that they would favor employers against the employees. There has been a plot to devise legal machinery to cut the strength of organized labor into little pieces, and to entangle each piece in a maze of legal restrictions and red tape.

The entire effort is harmful not just to labor, but to the whole of the country. It is a backward step, legally and economically.

We have been fighting against it, and we must continue to fight against it.

Our objective is to have what Samuel Gompers wanted: fairness and justice in the labor-management relations. We do not want a class that is stacked in favor of either labor or management. We want a law that will insure free unions and free workers, and government to protect both employers and employees. And we believe we will have that kind of a law, in the long run, in spite of all these efforts to turn back the clock of progress.

There is another respect in which we have been moving forward against stiff opposition since the days of Samuel Gompers. It is in creating a stable economy. One of the things that Gompers fought, all his life long, was unemployment. He knew that it was a problem that could be solved by labor alone. He knew that labor and government working with labor and farmers to prevent depressions and maintain high levels of employment.

It is remarkable when you look back on it, to realize what terrible stupidity and selfishness Gompers had to face in this part of his struggle for human justice. Economists told him that starving, unemployed workers were the result of "natural laws." That nothing could change. Businessmen opposed his suggestion that government agencies should take such a simple step as collecting statistics on unemployment.

We have come a long way since those days. We have adopted the principle that working people have insurance to give them some protection against unemployment. We believe in good wages, and we have fought to prevent sweatshops. We have set up a system of social security. We have written into our laws the principle that all people—business, labor, and agriculture—must share the fruits of our production and expand the economy. We have fought to protect the sources of our economy, through government, to prevent economic suffering and to protect against declines in the business cycle.

It is also one of the greatest things we have made great advances in our economic theories and our economic work together to bring about that "natural laws" make the poor

SAMUEL GOMPERS WAS RIGHT SAY PRESIDENT—Washington.—Addressing ceremonies dedicating Gompers Square, 11th & Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Mr. Truman said founder and first president of American Federation of Labor was right that "the

poorer and the rich richer. We no longer subscribe to the nonsensical idea that economic well-being trickles down the scale from the well-to-do to the wage earner.

In fact, we have proved that just the opposite is true. We have proved that if the wage-earner and the farmer are prosperous and secure the rest of the people will be prosperous and secure, too. Today, the working people of the United States are better off than any workers in history, and the annual income per person in this country is 40 percent higher than it was in 1903. This is a real gain of 40 percent—after taxes, and taking price increases into account.

But we have had to fight for these advances, and we will have to keep on fighting in order to hold them. There are still people who cling to the old trickle-down theory; who think that our sole concern ought to be profit; and that wages ought to come after profits have been taken care of. This is the same blind attitude that brought on the great depression, but it is still with us.

Let me give you an example. Our defense program has brought with it the threat of inflation—of runaway prices. Adequate price controls are essential not only for the wage earner, but for business as well. They are essential to the defense of the nation and to world peace. In this emergency, you would think that all citizens would want good, strong price controls to protect themselves and the whole economy.

But this has not proved to be the case. Scores of special interests have gone up together to prevent securing special short-run advantages at the expense of all the rest of us. These special interests have adopted the principle that price control is all right if it does not require them to absorb a penny more in the cost of doing business, so that they may have high profits may be. This is the main idea behind the terrible Capshat amendment, which tried to have removed from the price control law the clause which would bring down the price, in a new setting—take care of the profits first, and the general welfare last.

This Administration will do its best,



effort to secure justice for the working man means a fight" and that Gompers' goal for peace and justice for all the people of the world is America's goal. Mr. Truman spoke from a platform facing the bronze statue of Mr. Gompers, which stands in the park.

with the tools the Congress has given us, to curb inflation. But the tools are not good enough to do the job as it should be done.

Here is part of the fight for human justice which I hope working people—and all other patriotic Americans—will carry on with increasing vigor in the months to come. We can win this fight for a strong anti-inflation program. We must not lose heart. Think of the difficulties that confronted Samuel Gompers 60 years ago.

We have far less reason to be discouraged than he had. We have the crusade for human justice bring about tremendous improvements in our living standards and in the stability of our economy.

These gains have brought new responsibilities to organized labor. Today the labor unions are a major element in our economy. Their policies affect the whole nation and help to shape our national destiny.

In this present time of crisis, the defense of the free world depends on the production of American farm products and factories. Labor—organized labor—has the great responsibility of using its strength to increase defense production. It has the responsibility for helping to make wage stabilization work. It has the responsibility, along with management, of preventing the interruption of defense production.

I am confident that the American labor movement will measure up to these responsibilities.

AFL NEWS SERVICE

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